

Off-leash hours from 6:00-9:00am

Except as noted or posted

- **Buzzell Field;
Cutter Park;
Hill’s Hill upper area;
**Hill’s Hill Field;
- *Hurd/ Reservoir Fields;
**McClennen Park;
Menotomy Rocks Park (excluding woods);
Park Circle;
- *Poets Corner;
Reservoir Beach (excluded June 1st to August 31st);
- ***Robbins Farm Park;
Spy Pond Park and *Field;
- **Summer Street Field;
Turkey Hill;
Wellington Park

<<<<Thorndike Field & Magnolia Park: Please use the fenced Thorndike Off-leash OLRA only – available 6am-9pm daily>>>>>

** Off-leash hours end at **8:30am** on Saturdays from April 1st to June 30th and Sept. 1st to Nov. 15th.*
*** Off-leash hours end at **8:30am** on Saturdays & Sundays from April 1st to June 30th and Sept. 1st to Nov. 15th*

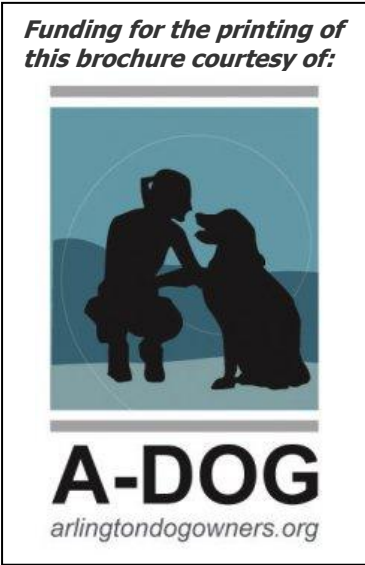
***** Hours at Robbins Farm Park:**

- **6-9:00am** Mon-Fri (7/1-8/31);
- **6-7:45am** Mon-Fri (9/1-6/30) & **8:30-9:00am** Mon-Fri (9/1-6/30 – *If field is in use by school dept or other organized, permitted event, off-leash activity is allowed behind the backstop only*);
- **6-9:00am** Sat & Sun (*If field is in use by an organized, permitted activity, off-leash activity is allowed behind the backstop only*).

Please note – the entire Robbins Farm Park, except the playground area & garden, is open for off-leash use except as detailed above.

To report a violation, contact:
Arlington Police / Animal Control Officer
at
781-643-1212;
or
to file a complaint about
an off-leash dog area or maintenance issue
e-mail Joe Connelly, Director of Recreation,
at
jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us

Version 1.0 – Oct. 2010



Off-leash Dogs in Arlington Parks

Under Supervision of the
Recreation Department
and
Park & Recreation Commission
Phone: 781-316-3880
www.arlingtonma.gov/recreation

What is the by-law change and what does it mean?

In Spring 2010, Arlington Town Meeting approved a by-law amendment allowing responsible dog owners in Arlington to have their dogs off-leash during limited morning hours. The actual change stipulates: “from park opening time until 9 am, a maximum of two dogs per handler may be off-leash, under effective owner control, in all lands under control of the Parks and Recreation Commission except: A. those lands directly contiguous to school properties; B. within 15 feet of playground equipment; C. by specific exclusion of the Park and Recreation Commission.”

It is hoped that this change will benefit all park users. Dogs will get needed exercise and socialization, which leads to better behavior. Owners get to socialize with fellow dog owners and those who are not bothered by free-running dogs. And other park users will have the opportunity to play and relax in the parks at times when they know that dogs must be on-leash.

Arlington has many parks and open spaces. Under the by-law change, off-leash dogs in the morning hours are not allowed in every one. All parks with off-leash times will have signs and waste cans. Owners with off-leash dogs will be allowed in the properties specified in this hand-out from 6am until 9am only (*unless otherwise noted or posted*).

The following *do not have off-leash hours at any time*:

- **All Park & Rec lands directly contiguous to school properties**, including Bishop School Field, Crosby School Park, Crusher Lot (Ottoson), Florence Avenue Park (Dallin), Gibb's School Playground, North Union Park / Lussiano Field (Thompson), Parmenter School Playground, Peirce School Park, Pheasant Avenue Park/Greeley Playground (Stratton);
- **All School Dept. properties**, including Brackett School Playground, Hardy School Playground, Ottoson Playing Fields, W.A. Peirce / Arlington High School Fields;
- **All Town Playgrounds**, including Buzzell Playground, Cutter Playground, Hibbert Playground, Locke Playground, Magnolia Playground, McClennen Park Playground & Skateboard Park, Menotomy Rocks Park Playground, Mt. Gilboa Playground, Parallel Playground, Poets Corner Playground, Robbins Farm Playground, Spy Pond Playground, Summer Street Playground, Waldo Playground, Wellington Playground;
- **Properties excluded by the Park & Recreation Commission**, including Buck Field, McClennen Baseball Field, Scannell Field (Linwood St. @ Spy Pond), Hibbert Street Park, Waldo Park, woods at Menotomy Rocks Park, Reservoir Beach during swim season (June-August); Parallel Park; Thorndike Field & Magnolia Park (*fenced OLRA available for use 6am-9pm daily*)
- **Conservation lands and community gardens**, including Cooke's Hollow Park, Magnolia Community Garden, Meadowbrook Park, Mt. Gilboa, Robbins Farm Park Garden, Window on the Mystic;
- **Other town properties**, including, Minuteman/Marquis Bikepath, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Robbins Library Grounds, Town Hall Gardens, Uncle Sam Park, Whittemore Park (Jefferson Cutter House), DCR Alewife Brook Pathway and Whittemore-Robbins House Grounds.

The Park and Recreation Commission has the authority to temporarily or permanently eliminate, or modify the boundaries of off-leash areas or further limit hours for any reason including the following: environmental damage, failure to comply with rules and regulations, public health or safety, conflict with other permitted uses or serious unanticipated problems affecting other park users.

We have thousands of park users, and sharing our parks helps us maximize the use and enjoyment we all receive from our open spaces. With good stewardship and courtesy, dog owners play a key role in keeping our parks clean, safe and well-maintained.

How does this work?

Before you go to the Park

1. License your dog(s) at the Clerk's Office at Town Hall – make sure vaccinations are current. Put license and identification on dog's collar.
2. Make sure you know the rules, regulations and expectations listed in this hand-out (and that are available on-line) for you and your off-leash dog.
3. Find a park near you with off-leash hours.
4. Bring your dog to the park with its leash on and bring bags for dog waste. **THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE TOWN BYLAW THAT REQUIRES DOG WASTE PICKUP! It is essential to everyone's enjoyment of the parks that this by-law is respected.**

At the Park

1. Keep your leash and pick up bags on hand at all times.
2. Check for "Park Closed" signs, wet fields, crews working in the park, or permitted activities – all of which mean that off-leash hours are suspended. You can call the Recreation Cancellation Hotline at 781-316-3886 to check on the suspension of off-leash hours.
3. Pick up after your dog and encourage others to do the same. **The pooper-scooper bylaw is in effect at all times.**
4. Keep your dog in sight at all times and **under effective voice control**. Your dog should come to you when called and respond to commands. If you need assistance with your dog's behavior, dog training professionals operate in and around Arlington.
5. Be mindful of your dog so that other park visitors are not anxious about their safety. Many people do not like unfamiliar dogs approaching them, and only you know whether your dog is friendly to other people. ***When in doubt, leash your dog.***

Rules and Regulations

1) Know When To Keep Your Dog On-Leash

- Dogs are allowed off-leash ONLY in the morning hours from 6-9am (or in some areas hours end as early as 7:30am), **unless the area is posted "No Off-leash Dogs Allowed" or with other restrictions defined here.**
- Keep your dog leashed when entering or exiting the park.
- Off-leash hours are suspended when there are special events permitted by the Recreation Dept. in the park.
- Dogs must be leashed when the DPW crews are working in the parks, so that they don't interfere with the work.

2) Be Respectful of Other Park Users and Neighbors

- Clean up after your dog in off- and on-leash areas.
- Maintain sight and voice control of your dog. You must be able to see your dog at all times and maintain effective verbal control of your dog. **You are responsible for any damage or injury your dog inflicts or receives.**
- Excessive barking is not allowed. Please play quietly.
- Dogs are not allowed in playground areas, sand boxes, court areas or abutters' yards.
- Dogs must not chase or disturb wildlife or enter conservation areas or sensitive open spaces, such as wetlands and planting beds.

3) Ensure Your Dog Meets the Off-leash Criteria

- Aggressive dogs are not permitted off-leash. Dogs who show continued aggression towards people, other dogs, or wildlife must be removed immediately and should not be brought to public parks. If you need assistance with your dog's behavior, dog training professionals operate in and around Arlington.
- Each person is limited to two dogs per handler
- Dogs must be 4 months old to participate off-leash.
- Dogs in heat are not allowed off-leash at any time.
- All dogs must be licensed, vaccinated, and healthy (no contagious conditions, diseases, or parasites).